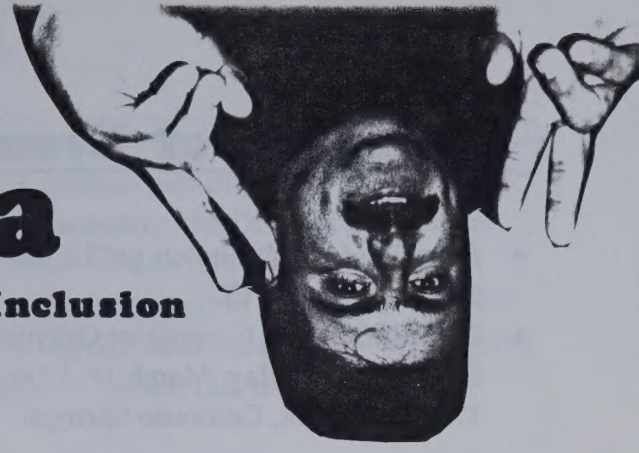
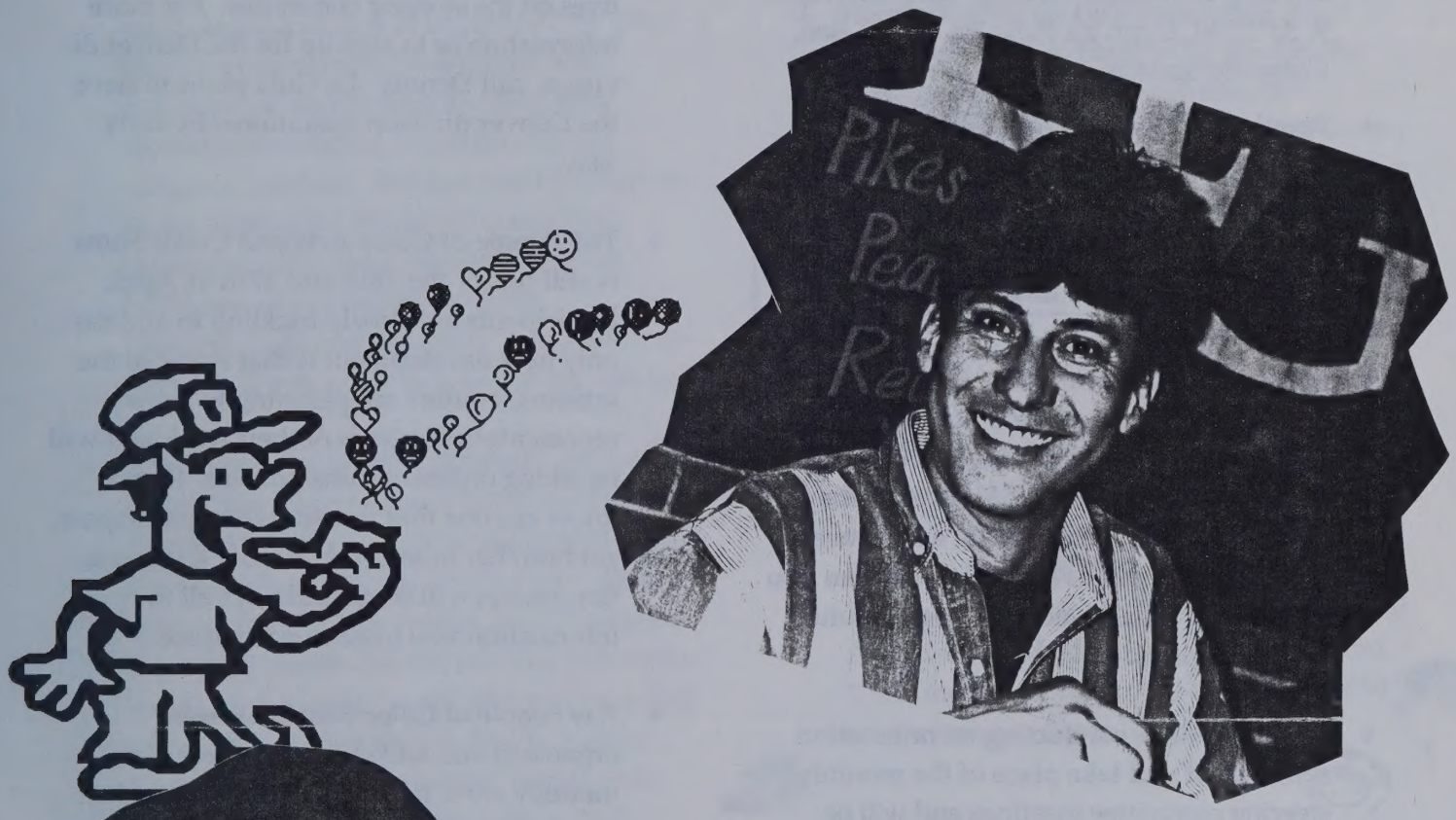
La Carta

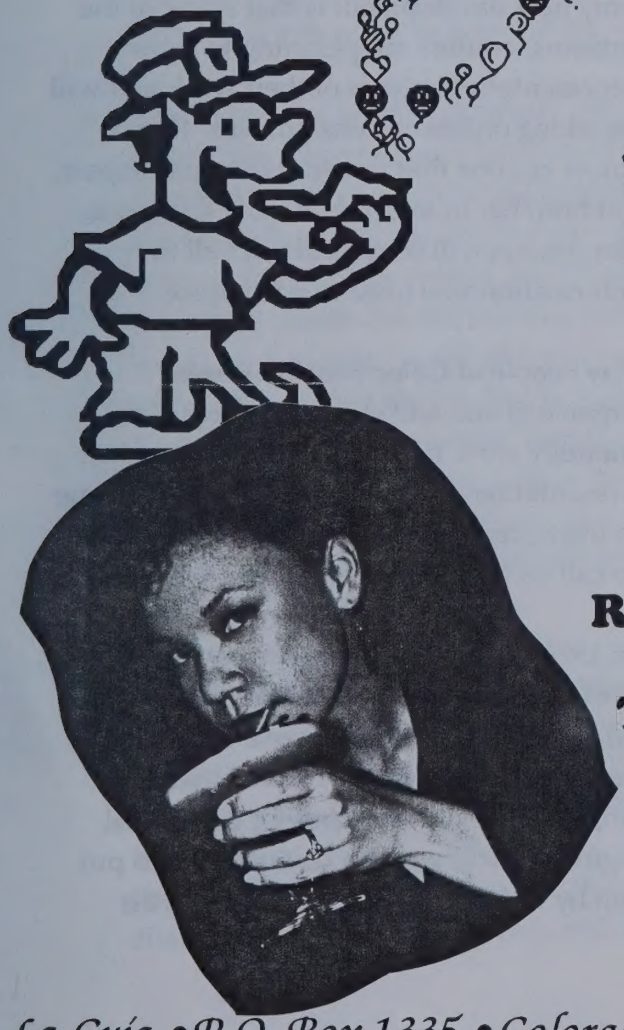
Diversity through Inclusion

March 1994



Happy First Birthday, La Guía





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Mega-Mixer Success

La Guía • P.O. Box 1335 • Colorado Springs • Colorado • 80901 • (719) 473-6771

Calendar of Events

- Deadline for submission to "La Carta": Tuesday, March 15.
- La Guía Steering Committee Orientation Seminar: Saturday, March 19, 12 noon, 1720 W. Kiowa, Colorado Springs.
- La Guía steering committee members are invited by La Gente's co-chair Gary DeHererra's house for an informal dinner party, March 19, 7:30 to 9:30 PM.
- Steering committee meeting: Saturday, April 9, 2:00 PM, Gentry's Flowers, 21 S. Tejon, Colorado Springs.
- People of Color Arts and Crafts Show: Saturday & Sunday, April 16 & 17, Gentry's Flowers.

News Briefs

♦ Membership cards are out. If you have not received yours yet, call the hotline and tell us. The numbered cards include our address, phone numbers and space for the member's name. These cards will be useful in identifying you as a member and can also be used for discounted entry fees to future La Guía events.

♦ La Guía will be conducting an orientation seminar. It will take place of the monthly steering committee meetings and will be open to <u>all</u> La Guía members. The orientation is designed to acquaint all members on leadership skills; diplomacy; consensus training; and La Guía's structure, services, and mode of operation. All La Guía members are encouraged to attend the orientation seminar, especially if you are interested in getting involved at the steering committee level. The seminar will be held on Saturday, March 19 and will start promptly at 12 noon. If you are interested in attending, call the hotline. The orientation will be the model used to design future orientation programs; attendance by steering committee members is mandatory.

♦ If you live in Denver, you are in luck. La Guía has a contact number for you just in case you have not received a membership card with the 800 number yet. Dennis is our interim representative for the Denver area and you can reach him at 303-831-9026. Due to the size of the Denver division, La Guía plans to have two Denver representatives on the steering committee. For more information or to sign up for the Denver division, call Dennis. La Guía plans to have the Denver division operational by early May.

♦ The People of Color Arts and Crafts Show is still on for the 16th and 17th of April. Participants are slowly trickling in and the only new development is that many of the artisans/crafters are planning to show representatives pieces of their work and will be taking orders on consignment. If you know anyone that would like to participate, get him/her in touch with us. An information packet will be mailed with all the information you need to participate.

♦ The People of Color Panel has been organized and will start having regular monthly work meetings to coordinate their presentations at future programs. If anyone is interested in participating, do not hesitate to call us for more information.

♦ In 1994, Ground Zero's strategy will be centered around the idea that "WE ARE ALL FAMILY," and everyone deserves equal rights. Ground Zero will stress the importance of understanding the radical right, and will work to counter the lies put out by attempting to combat the myths

about the LesBiGay community through education and outreach to the community at large. La Guía will be involved, joining several other organizations in the multi-media campaign.

- Currently, La Guía is a member of the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition and supports caucuses in Ground Zero and the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center. In the future, La Guía will seek membership in the Colorado Freedom Network. The CFN is a non-partisan, multi-issue coalition of organizations who share a commitment to diversity and tolerance on issues such as education, reproductive choice, equal justice, and religious freedom. We feel that the purpose of the "network" fits into the mission statement of La Guía, and will help us fulfill one of our promises to the Hispano/Latino community: keep them informed. If you want to know more, call us.

- As always, the UCRSE (United Court of the Rising Sun Empire) has a flurry of activities. As you all well know, behind Ground Zero, the Court is one of La Guía's major advocates so try to attend some of its functions. We are all aware that the steering committee works on La Guía "stuff" almost every day and with as many shows, functions and meetings the Court has every month, it is virtually impossible to go to all of them. But if you have the time, please plan on attending some of the Court's functions; it will be well worth your time.

- Rozx has been moved from the fund raising committee to the informational services committee. Her expertise is needed in the informational division in helping compile information we have collected into brochures that will be available (free of charge) through La Guía. Rozx will also help in printing flyers, information packets, and various pamphlets for La Guía. Unfortunately, the Director of Finance position of La Guía will be left vacant. If you are interested in this position (which will include fund raising and "keeping the books"), please call us today.

- Several of our members and readers have asked for a classified section in La Carta which includes a Personals category. Look for it in this edition!

- Pueblo After 2 recently received a grant from the Chinook Fund to be used in the start-up phase of office organization. Pueblo After 2 plans to use the grant money to buy communication equipment and office supplies. The Pueblo group is currently searching for office space that could be shared with Pueblo's P-Flag. To contact Pueblo After 2, call 719-564-4004 or write them at P.O. Box 1602, Pueblo, CO. 81002.

- The Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center recently opened an office in suite 466 of the Independence Building at 121 E. Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs. The office will be open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; and from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mega-Mixer '94: Saw it, Did it, Loved it!

¡Bien Hecho! Thanks to Mark and the Union Stop staff, Mega-Mixer '94 was a great success. La Guía not only signed up 31 new members, but also distributed information from P-FLAG, Pueblo After 2, Ground Zero, Equality Colorado, and Lesbians in Colorado.

By the end of the evening, over 250 people had passed through the doors for a night of dancing, food, spirits, and fun. Everyone seemed to have had a great time and even before the night was over, several folks were wondering when the next La Guía party would be held.

Maurcedes provided the dance music which was a mix of high-energy and techno performed or written by Latino artists. Rancheras, Cumbias, and Salsas were added to the program after midnight.

If you didn't realize it, the entire food table was provided by the good people of Pueblo. A special thanks goes to Pueblo representative Robert for coordinating and being instrumental in planning the event.

Want to Get Involved?

To get more involved with La Guía, all you have to do is ask and you will be told "where" and "how". The choice of "what" is completely up to you. All the services and activities provided by La Guía fall into several categories including: Social, Educational, Informational, Political, Fund raising, Administration, and Membership. As we have stated before, you pick and choose which services you want to be involved in. Be aware that you must go through an informal orientation concerning the operational tactics of La Guía, and pledge to promote the motto and the mission statement of our organization.

Lucie Blue Tremblay

Canadian singer/song writer Lucie Blue Tremblay will be in concert Saturday, March 19, 7:30 PM at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. This will be a good concert to attend after the La Guía orientation and training session on the same date. Tickets are $12. for more information, call 719-634-5581.

Gay Marriages

Heterosexuals enjoy a special right of marriage. Why? Society doesn't realize that love is universal and can not be restricted within heterosexual relationships. This special right entitles heterosexuals to tax breaks, better jobs, better housing, and consumer discounts, not to mention displaying their commitments to their partners without societal disapproval.

Gay activists Chris Baka and Billy Witt recently tried to apply for a marriage license but were denied due to their gender. In the united States, Hawaii is the only state that allows same-sex marriages. Chris and Billy were recently guests on KKTV's noon newshour along with gay celebrities Rod and Bob Jackson-Paris. A surprising number of supportive callers phoned in their opinions along with the usual hate-filled ones. The four panelists asserted the fact that, until other states followed Hawaii's example, equal rights for everyone (no more, no less) would always be their goal.

Let's Do the 'Pride Parade Shuffle!'

The Denver Pridefest Committee, true to Denver fashion, went through an inter-organizational "in-fighting" episode which caused the leadership to change hands and move the Denver parade to July 10, which was the date selected for the Colorado Springs/Southern Colorado Pride Parade.

The committee has since moved the Colorado Springs festivities to the week after the Denver

20 FEB. '94

Dear Mom—

You're always complaining that I never write... well now there's finally something worth the ink! ☺

LA GUÍA hosted a MEGA MIXER in Pueblo last night—oooiii, i gue calor I've enclosed some photos 'cuz I thought you'd get a kick out of them

① Roxx was only too happy to be takin' the $ at the door

② Gaime's smile is a little crooked.. hmm:

③ Jooh, Mz. Thang was having too much fun dancing!

④ With Maurcedes in the mix—the music was hot!

⑤ The ever faithful folks from Ground Zero. ☺

← welcoming crew — not to mention the fact that they'd done such a good job! Cheh - modest much

You would have been really impressed with the music and atmosphere!

We danced the spectro from Tex-Mex to Techno... and the food? - good of course!

Too bad you missed it.

You'll have to make sure and buy your tickets early next year.

They have a lot more events planned this year. Maybe you can make it to their Arts & Crafts Fair in April?

(7) See - They really packed the house

Everybody sends their love!

Write Back Soon -

♡ & ☺

Mary

(8) The people just kept coming!

Some "LG" members striking a pose!

parade, but the perception of constant bickering within the Gay and Lesbian community in Denver makes us wonder, "what the hell are they doing up there!"

La Guía has been perplexed by the constant turmoil in Denver especially while the rest of the state's LesBiGay community is becoming more and more galvanized against injustice and intolerance. We may not understand now, but maybe someday we will be able to help them see that unity and compromise can achieve a lot more than what ever has mysteriously kept the metro community so fragmented and divided so many times, for so long.

As we informed before, La Guía will be involved in the fun of both parades: July 10 in Denver and July 17 in Colorado Springs. So for those of you members from Denver in the north and Alamosa to the south who wanted to build a float, you've better get started planning now! Both parades need us as much as we need them. Remember: "Somos Familia." A list of pridefest activities will be printed in future editions of La Carta. Let's get busy!

News from the Valley

by Mitch, our San Luis Valley Representative

Queremos darles las gracias por habernos invitado a participar en La Guía. Todos sus amigos del Valle de San Luis agradecemos el apoyo demonstrado hacia nuestra tan diversificada comunidad y queremos reiterar nuestro orgullo de pertenecer a La Guía. ¡Muchas Gracias!

The San Luis Valley is an oval shaped valley formed by the Sangre de Cristo and the San Juan Mountain ranges of the Rocky Mountains. It is one of the largest valleys in the world, with over 6,000 square miles. It is the home of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. It is host to numerous types of wildlife, including peregrine falcons, deer, elk, antelope and big horn sheep. We are a flyway for raptors such as bald eagles, hawks, sandhill and whooping cranes, and many more. The Valley is rich in history; it was inhabited by Anasazis, the Utes, then later explored by Spaniards in the 17th century. We are culturally rich with many ethnic heritages, traditions, religions, etc.

The San Luis is rural and sparsely populated, making isolation a factor in people's lives. Primary sources of income are farming and ranching, mining, tourism, and social services. The Valley is host to many migrant farmworkers from throughout the Southwest, Mexico, Guatemala, and other areas. The Valley has high percentages of people living in poverty. In 1989, the average income for Valley residents was $11,710, compared to $17,504 for Colorado Springs residents.

Taking this information into consideration, it is easy to see how a LesBiGay person can become frustrated very fast. However, many of us choose not to give up the beauty of our home for the glamour of the city. Social activities for us are very limited and isolated; many times, just as our demographical situation. I believe that La Guía will serve as the vehicle to overcome these obstacles.

What is Freestyle?

It is a movement that started in New York which caters to the Latino population, hence Latin Hip-Hop became its nickname. The origins started with the death of disco in the early eighties. Disco's core audience consisted of Latinos; when disco faltered and the music turned toward mainstream pop, urban, and rock formats, the Latinos were overlooked and forced to go underground.

This movement with Latino performers and producers is starting to hit the west coast. La Guía, in conjunction with Rude Girl Productions, is offering 60 minutes of pure freestyle mix for just $7 per tape, which includes shipping and handling. If you are interested in ordering, fill out the form below and mail it to La Guía, P.O. Box 1335, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, Attention: Rude Girl Productions. All proceeds benefit La Guía.

- Flatbush Mix
- Retro Mix
- Homegrown Mix

Name _____

Address _____

C/S/Zip _____

Total Enclosed: $ _

Ground Zero Comments

contributed by Franklin Whitworth
Ground Zero

Are we not allowed to be who we are? Can we not worship, or not worship as we please? Is not each of our cultures just as important as the other? Who do initiatives such as English only benefit? What purpose does such legislation serve except for cultural suppression and denial of individuality? Must we all be one, white-washed version of someone else's vision of who we should be?

These are questions that we all must ask. Ground Zero has found great significance in the passage of English Only and has long realized that it is the same type of legislation as Amendment 2.

When King Juan Carlos of Spain chose to speak Catalan in the opening ceremony of the Olympics on Barcelona in 1992, he effectively eliminated years of oppression that had come to be symbolized in the banning of official use of that language throughout Spain. There was a resurgence of pride and self esteem and a feeling of "freedom" swept throughout Barcelona and, indeed, all of Spain. An era had passed. A symbol of past oppression had fallen.

The oppressive nature of English Only is obvious and it must be overturned. This is not a country to be ruled by fascist elements. The passage of English Only, however, was an act that came from a fascist mentality.

In America, the Constitution grants the right to be free; to be free to be who we are, to be free to respect and love our heritage, and to keep our own cultural identities. English Only represents a mentality that would deny this freedom. Ground Zero is committed to overturning English Only just as it is overturning Amendment 2. Both symbolize oppression and both must go.

Classifieds and Personals

For Sale

Exercise Bike, $30; Loveseat, $50. Call 591-1357 for more information

Congratulations to Alex and John who celebrated their first year anniversary this past month. Keep up the good work.

xxxooo Mitch Garcia

Happy birthday wishes to Gilbert and Mindy who are celebrating this month. Watch out! They're not getting older; they're getting better.

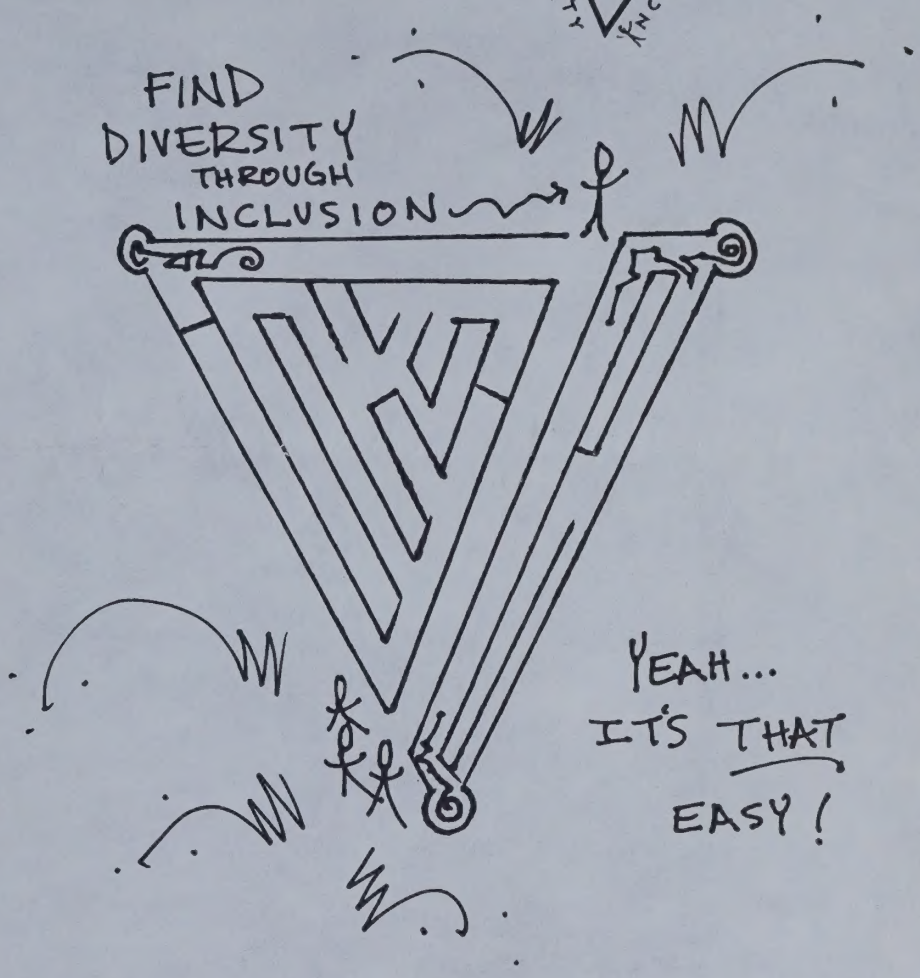
Mitch Garcia

Ray, I'll be seeing you soon. Even if you're not here, you are always in our hearts. Take care and God bless you always.

Mitch Garcia

Happy Birthday and Many Happy Returns to Gaimé, Maurcedes, Robert, and Eddie.

Love, La Zorra



Our Motto:

'Diversity through Inclusion'

Our Mission:

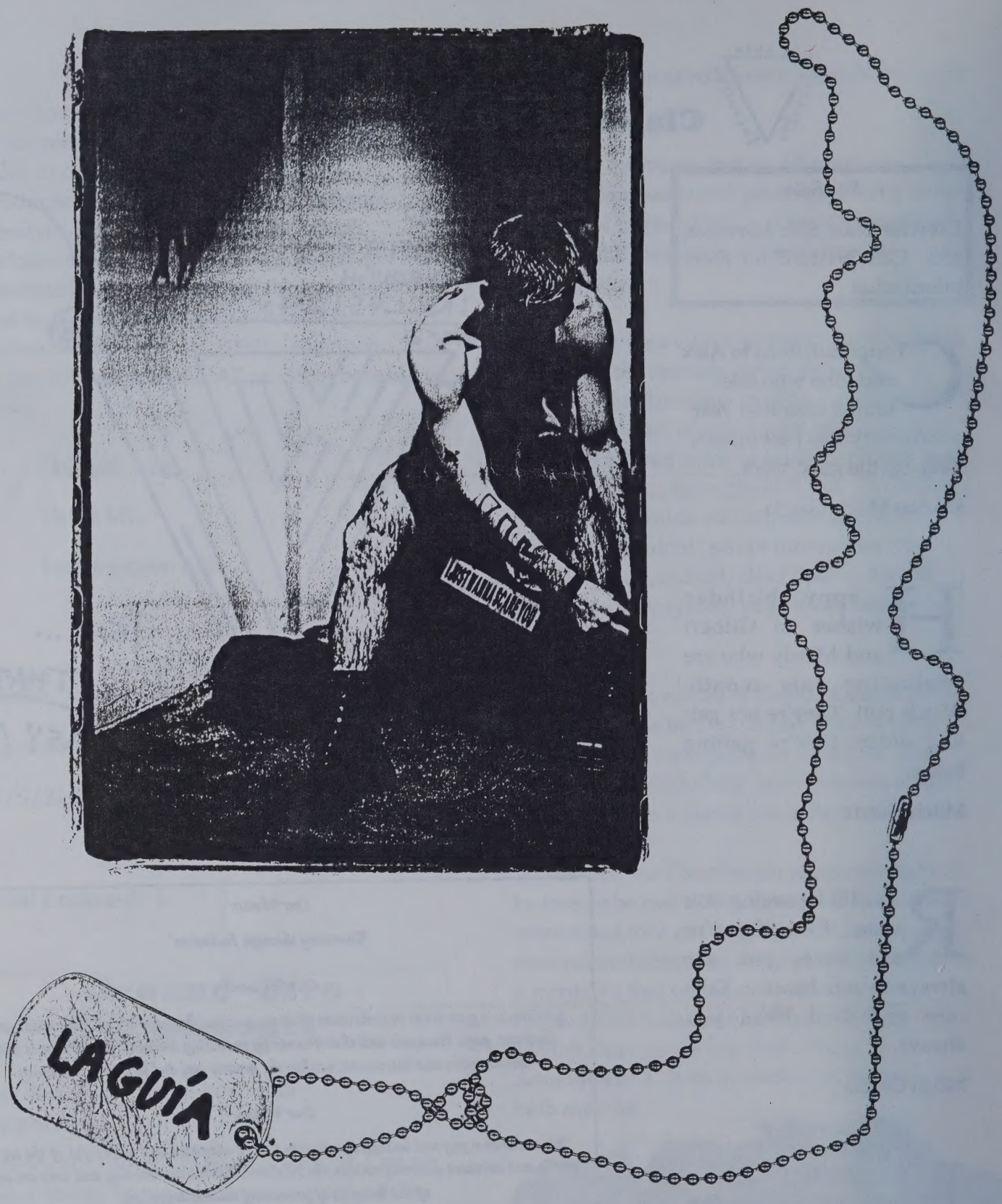
La Guia is a grassroots organization that encourages the inclusion of Hispanic/Latino lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends by providing a diverse forum that is both autonomous and interactive within the greater gay and lesbian community.

Our Vision:

We envision a gay and lesbian community that is educated and respectful of the racial, ethnic and cultured diversity within the Hispanic/Latino community, and who are aware of the benefits of promoting multiculturalism.

Our Description:

We represent Hispanic/Latino gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends from a variety of backgrounds throughout Southern Colorado who are dedicated to the unification and education of the gay and lesbian community at-large, and who believe in the mission statement of La Guia.



GET DRESSED!

LA GUIA DOG TAGS - $10

SEE MEMBER